

This document contains the Connecticut regulations for State Park Rentals. This document was prepared by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and is provided for the convenience of the reader. This is not the official version of the regulations. The official regulations are published by the State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch, Commission on Official Legal Publications in the Connecticut Law Journal. In the event there is inconsistency between this document and the regulations as published in the Connecticut Law Journal, the Connecticut Law Journal publication will serve as the official version.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Park Rentals

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended by adding sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, as follows:

Sec. 23-4-23. Definitions

As used in sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) "Camp Day" means from the time of arrival (1:00 p.m. check-in) until 12:00 noon the next day;
- (2) "Columbus Day" means the second Monday in October;
- (4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or his representative;
- (5) "Contractor" means a person retained, whether or not for compensation, by a renter in connection with an event, including without limitation a caterer, photographer, musician, or entertainer;
- (6) "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection;
- (7) "Event" means a social, cultural, or business function, including without limitation a party, reception, fund raiser, conference, or seminar;
- (8) "Memorial Day" means the last Monday of May;
- (9) "Park" means any park, forest, or other recreational area managed by the Department;
- (10) "Park supervisor" means the Department employee stationed at a park who has ultimate responsibility for operations thereof;
- (11) "Person" means a person as defined by section 22a-2 of the Connecticut General Statutes;
- (12) "Picnic shelter" means an open-air, roofed structure, of whatever size and configuration, located at a state park, forest, or other recreational area;
- (13) "Rental" or "rent" means (a) for a picnic shelter: the occupation, for the fee and under the conditions specified in sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, for the purpose of holding an event, and the exclusion from the picnic shelter of all persons other than the renter, the renter's guests or contractors, and representatives of the Department during a prescribed time; and (b) for rustic cabins for camping: the occupation, for the fee and under the conditions specified in sections 23-4-3 and 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;
- (14) "Rental fee" means a rental fee under section 23-4-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;
- (15) "Renter" means person who or which rents, as that term is defined in this section; and
- (16) "Rustic cabin" means a small log structure with a front porch, windows and door, bunk beds inside, no electricity or running water.

Sec. 23-4-24. Applicability

Sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, govern the use and rental of open-air picnic shelters in all state parks, forests and other recreational areas; and the rental of rustic cabins in state parks. Violation of any provision of such sections shall be an infraction and shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$90 or by such higher fine as may be provided by law.

Sec. 23-4-25. Availability of picnic shelters for rental

Picnic shelters are available for rental from the Friday before Memorial Day through Columbus Day from 8:00 a.m. to one-half hour before sunset.

Sec. 23-4-26. Use without rental

Nothing in sections 23-4-25 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall be construed to prevent any person from using a picnic shelter during times when it has not been rented by another.

Sec. 23-4-27. Availability of rustic cabins for rental

Rustic cabins are available for rental during the official camping season in Connecticut State Parks.

Sec. 23-4-28. Rental fees**(a) Picnic shelters**

(1) The rental fee for a picnic shelter is \$125 per day through December 31, 2004; \$150 per day from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007; and \$175 per day from January 1, 2008 and thereafter.

(b) Rustic cabins

(1) The rental fee for a rustic cabin is \$35 per camp day and permits occupation of a maximum of six (6) persons, including children.

Sec. 23-4-29. Admission and parking fees**(a) Picnic shelters**

(1) Payment of a rental fee does not relieve the renter, the renter's guests, or contractors from the obligation to pay any applicable admission or parking fee.

(b) Rustic cabins

(1) Payment of a rental fee includes the admission of two (2) motor vehicles per cabin.

Sec. 23-4-30. Applications for rentals. Cancellations**(a) Picnic shelters**

(1) Rentals are to be arranged through the campground reservation system.

(2) Cancellations made thirty (30) days or more prior to the event will be entitled to a full refund; cancellations made six (6) to twenty-nine (29) days prior to the event will entitle the renter to a refund of 80% of the fee; cancellations made within five (5) days of the event will result in forfeiture of the fee.

(3) The renter is responsible for any processing charge(s) from the reservation system, i.e. reservation, change of date or cancellation.

(b) Rustic cabins

(1) Rentals are to be arranged through the campground reservation system.

(2) Cancellations made eight or more days prior to the reservation will be entitled to a complete refund and a transaction fee will be assessed by the reservation system; cancellations made two to seven days prior to the reservation will be assessed a transaction fee by the reservation system and the renter will pay for one night; cancellations made less than two days prior to the reservation will be assessed a transaction fee by the reservation system and the renter will not be entitled to any refund.

Sec. 23-4-31. Liabilities. Commissioner's remedies**(a) Picnic shelters**

(1) Nothing in sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall affect any obligation imposed by law on a renter to obtain any authorizations for activities in connection with an event, including, as applicable, a special use license under section 23-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(2) By renting a picnic shelter, the renter agrees to, and shall, indemnify and save harmless the State of Connecticut and the Department from any and all claims, damages, losses, litigation, or expenses arising out of any injury, including death, or any damage to property resulting from any act, omission, or neglect of the renter or any of the renter's guests or contractors.

(3) Unless otherwise provided therein, nothing in sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall affect any rights or privileges of the commissioner or members of the public. The remedies provided to the commissioner under said sections are cumulative with any other remedies to which he is lawfully entitled.

Sec. 23-4-32. Catering

(a) Picnic shelters

If a renter wishes to retain a caterer in connection with an event at a picnic shelter, the renter shall no later than 30 days before such event submit to the park supervisor the name, address, and phone number of such caterer and the name of such caterer's contact person.

(1) Failure to submit the information within the specified time frame will result in a \$50 processing fee. The park supervisor may disapprove a caterer if the caterer has previously been retained for an event in a park and failed to fully restore all areas where food or beverages were served to their condition immediately prior to the event.

Sec. 23-4-33. Use of tents

(a) Picnic shelters

(1) For the purpose of food preparation during an event, a renter or caterer may install a tent, with dimensions no greater than 400 square feet (unless otherwise approved by the park supervisor in writing, a charge of \$2 per square foot will be levied for the additional square footage above the 400 square feet), adjacent to the picnic shelter, but only if the park supervisor has first approved the time, date and location of its installation and removal.

(2) Except as provided in this section and section 23-4-21(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, no person may otherwise install a tent anywhere at a park other than at a designated park campground and as authorized by the department.

Sec. 23-4-34. Miscellaneous requirements

(a) Picnic shelters

(1) The renter or renter's agent shall be present at the event from its scheduled commencement until its scheduled end. The renter or renter's agent shall, no later than ten days before the scheduled event, inform the Park Supervisor in writing of the name, title, and home and business telephone numbers of an employee or other agent designated by such renter as responsible for assuring compliance with the provisions of sections 23-4-33 through 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(2) All food and beverages shall be served to the renter's guests free of charge.

(3) The only types of food cookers or warmers that may be used at a picnic shelter and associated tent are: sterno containers, propane or electric stoves, outdoor gas or charcoal grills.

(4) When a renter or a renter's agent vacates a picnic shelter, the renter or agent shall ensure that:

(A) all waste generated during the time the renter and any of the renter's guests or contractors used the picnic shelter and associated tent is properly disposed of;

(B) all equipment and supplies brought into the park in connection with the use of the picnic shelter and associated tent are removed; and

(C) all areas where food or beverages were served in connection with use of the picnic shelter and associated tent are restored to their original condition immediately after such use.

(5) No person may toss or otherwise disperse confetti, rice, or other scattering materials in or around a picnic shelter.

Sec. 23-4-35. Renter's responsibilities

The renter shall ensure compliance with all the provisions of sections 23-4-23 to 23-4-35, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. This section shall not relieve any other person of his or her obligations under any other sections of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies or the Connecticut General Statutes.

Be it known that the foregoing regulations are adopted by the aforesaid agency pursuant to Secs. 22a-6, 23-4 and 23-26 of the General Statutes, after publication in the Connecticut Law Journal on June 18, 2002, of the notice of the proposal to adopt such regulations, and the holding of an advertised public hearing on the 25th day of July, 2002.

Wherefore, the foregoing regulations are hereby adopted, effective when filed with the Secretary of the State.

In Witness Whereof: December 20, 2002, Arthur Rocque, Commissioner.

Approved by the Attorney General as to legal sufficiency in accordance with Sec. 4-169, as amended, Connecticut General Statutes: January 7, 2003.

Approved by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee in accordance with Sec. 4-170, as amended, of the General Statutes: January 28, 2003.

Two certified copies received and filed, and one such copy forwarded to the Commission on Official Legal Publications in accordance with Sec. 4-172, as amended, of the General Statutes, Secretary of the State: January 31, 2003.